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Astronaut scheduled to speak at graduation

LAUREN DUNCAN
Daily Egyptian

The final words of wisdom graduating students will hear at SIUC will come from someone who has a few accomplishments himself.

Mark Kelly has been to space, beat cancer and his wife survived an attempted assassination. He'll be speaking at this year's May commencements.

While graduation ceremonies will differ this year due to consolidation, Chancellor Rita Cheng said having Kelly speak at the ceremonies is a positive for the change.

Kelly is a retired U.S. Navy Captain and an experienced naval aviator, according to the university commencement website. He is married to former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who is recovering from an attempted assassination in January 2011. The two wrote and released a memoir about the experience later that year titled "Gabby." Kelly is also a prostate cancer survivor.

Cheng said Kelly was recommended to speak at the commencement by members of a committee she created this year to reevaluate the ceremonies. In January, Cheng announced the several graduation commencements at different colleges will be condensed into three main ceremonies at the SIU Arena on Sat., May 12.

The committee looked at several speaker candidates, she said.

"He just kind of came to the top right away," Cheng said.

Cheng said Kelly's talk might be particularly appealing to some students because of his experiences. For instance, she said people involved with the rehabilitation institution may look forward to Kelly's talk since he is a cancer survivor. His experience with aviation, she said, may be intriguing to flight students.

"People (in our aviation program) are so excited because he is a four-time astronaut, and he has been a commander of one of the flights," she said.

Jeff Hayes, an aviation instructor, echoed that sentiment. He said he finds it exciting that Kelly will speak at the ceremonies.

"It's to show people that they can achieve whatever they put their mind to," he said.

Kelly's relation to specific

interests isn't the only reason he was chosen, Cheng said. She said the theme of his talk, "Endeavor to Success," connects with the new marketing strategy the university paid Chicago firm Lipman-Hearn to create last fall.

"It really connects with the work that we've been doing about achieving and knowing no bounds and endless possibilities, and that's really what I want our students to remember from their commencement," she said.

Although Kelly's booking has excited some, others said they are not looking forward to the speech because they are still displeased with the ceremonies' consolidation.

Keith Haseman, a senior from Crystal Lake studying forestry, said he would prefer a less distinguished speaker over a larger ceremony.

"I think the speaker is less important," he said. "I am more disappointed that the graduations are not all at individual colleges."

Similarly, Renee Middlebrooks, a junior from Chicago studying healthcare management, said she'd prefer a less distinguished speaker if the ceremonies were not consolidated this year.

"But still, somebody we could relate to would be good," she said.

One reason Cheng cited for the ceremonies' changes earlier this semester was to celebrate the university's pride with major events. A distinguished speaker is something students, faculty and guests remember, she said.

"I'm really very excited, and I want people to be talking about SIU in the same circles they talk about (the University of Illinois) and they're talking about Virginia Tech," she said. "It just elevates us in the eyes of those (who) need to be thinking about college, that great things happen here every single day."

Erin McCree, a junior from Marion studying animal science, may not be a graduating this year, but she said she appreciates the university's strive for a distinguished speaker.

"I would like a good speaker," she said. "Someone like (Kelly) would be good. It makes it more memorable."

Lauren Duncan can be reached at lduncan@dailyegyptian.com or at 536-3311 ext. 268.



JESSICA TEZAK | DAILY EGYPTIAN

FRIENDLY FIRE | Chad Deaton, of Stonefort, and a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, keeps watch on a prescribed burn Wednesday in Ava. One of the burn's objectives was to restore the forest to its natural state and reduce fuel loads from previous years' storms.

Environmentalists lobby against budget cuts, fees in Springfield

SHARON WITTKÉ
Daily Egyptian

Environmental advocates asked legislators to pass legislation regulating hydraulic fracturing Thursday in Springfield at the annual Environmental Issues Lobby Day.

Terri Treacy, conservation field representative for the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club, an environmental advocacy organization founded in 1892, said the need for sustainability of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was also discussed.

Treacy said her organization also opposes the Tenaska bill, which would authorize the construction of a \$3.5 billion coal gasification plant in Taylorville.

Treacy said the lobby day has been an annual event since 2004.

Representative Frank Mautino is promoting legislation that would allow the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to generate income by charging entry fees at state parks and still receive funding appropriated by the General Assembly, and the Sierra Club supports the initiative, she said.

Treacy said Illinois is one of fewer than a dozen states that do not charge state park entry fees. Decreased funding from the state's general revenue fund will cause a decline in the amount and type of services at state parks and natural areas, said Travis Loyd, deputy director for the INDR.

He said without additional money

generated by fees, the department will not be able to hire temporary groundskeepers who mow and keep trails cleared during the summer.

Tourists Sharon and Michael Seymour, of Crown Point, Ind., said they are concerned about reduced funding for Illinois state parks. The two said they go to LaRue Pine Hills, a natural area in Union County, whenever they get the chance.

"We would be very upset if the parks weren't maintained," Sharon Seymour said.

The lack of state regulations that govern hydraulic fracturing operations also concerns her group, Treacy said.

Please see LOBBY | 3

Fees rise, enrollment falls for College of Business

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

A recent drop in enrollment at the College of Business may be linked to increase tuition and fee rates for incoming students.

Students enrolled at the college must pay a fee for each credit hour they take. Student rates are locked in for four years after they enroll.

This year, the rate was increased by \$2.50 per credit hour from \$36.45 to \$38.95, according to the 2011-

"I really want to work for a big accounting firm and U of I and here are the only places that they really recruit."

— Nick Scardina
junior from Geneva studying accounting

2012 undergraduate tuition and fee schedule.

When converted into a 15-hour schedule, it is an increase of \$37.50 per semester. The increase may

be one factor potential students consider when deciding on a school to attend.

Please see BUSINESS | 3

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The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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2012 Russell Scholar:



Dr. Bryan Keith Lindsey is a senior public health advisor at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in Atlanta, Georgia.

Healthy People 2020: Meeting the Challenge

SIUC 2nd floor Student Center Illinois and Kaskaskia Rooms

General Session I.....1:00-1:45

Poster Presentation.....1:45-3:00

General Session II.....3:00-4:15

SIUC Student Health Center Auditorium (375 East Grand Ave Carbondale, IL)

Russell Scholar Reception.....6:00-6:30

Russell Scholar Address.....6:30-7:30

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LOBBY

CONTINUED FROM 1

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a method used to extract natural gas from subterranean shale by injecting a mix of water, sand and chemicals into wells using extremely high pressure, according to the Environmental Protection Agency website.

"Currently, there is no regulation that requires full disclosure of the chemicals used," Treacy said.

She said she would like to see regulations that require energy companies to disclose which chemicals are used for fracking, impose strong standards for well casings and provide better well inspection standards.

Liz Patula, coordinator for Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment, said she is concerned that residents of southeastern Illinois don't completely understand that the chemicals used in fracking are toxic and may seep into the groundwater.

She said many citizens aren't aware that hydraulic fracturing operations may begin soon in Saline County.

"The gas companies just kind of snuck in," Patula said. "People don't know that fracking is going to happen."

She said her organization is also asking state legislators to regulate hydraulic fracturing.

"Any kind of regulation is better than nothing, and the stronger the regulation, the better," she said.

Jack Overstreet, the manager for Next Energy, a Colorado-based company that secures leases for oil and gas exploration, said in an email that his company is in favor of good governmental oversight and regulation of the hydraulic fracturing industry.

"Carefully regulated oil and gas exploration is safe, important, and a positive part of our economic growth and national security," he said.

Overstreet said his company is spending millions of dollars on lease bonuses in southern Illinois, and property owners, small businesses and local governmental taxing authorities will benefit from the money spent in the area on gas and oil operations.

Britanny Bilderback, a lease-writer for Next Energy, said her company is primarily concerned with acquiring leases for oil and gas exploration. After her company secures the leases, it partners with another company that drills the wells, she said.

Bilderback said Next Energy is in the process of acquiring

property rights in Wayne, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Saline and Christian counties.

"We're working on acquiring as much land as possible to give us the best options later," Bilderback said.

Illinoisans also need to be concerned about the Tenaska bill, Treacy said, which would require Illinois residents to subsidize the cost of constructing a coal-fired power plant in Taylorville.

She said proponents of the bill claim it will create jobs and stabilize electric rates for 30 years, but her organization opposes the bill because of air pollution caused by the coal gasification process and the cost to the citizens of Illinois.

She said the Tenaska bill was first introduced several years ago and, after it was defeated twice before, the Senate passed the bill in November 2011.

"The Tenaska bill keeps coming back," Treacy said. "If it passes, it's going to affect everyone in Illinois for the next 30 years."

Sharon Wittke can be reached at swittke@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 266.

BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM 1

This year, undergraduate enrollment in the College of Business has decreased by 54 students from 1,257 in 2010 to 1,203 during the fall 2011 semester according to the institutional research and studies. In comparison, total undergraduate enrollment at SIUC has decreased to 15,000 this fall from 15,137 in 2010, a 137-student drop.

Nick Scardina, a junior from Geneva studying accounting, said he chose SIUC because its highly-rated business school gives him a better chance in the job market after graduation. Scardina came to SIUC in the fall of 2010, before the rate increase took place.

"I really want to work for a big accounting firm and U of I and here are the only places that they really recruit," he said. "Price was a factor for me, so the increase would be something I would have looked into."

Chancellor Rita Cheng said the enrollment decline is not related to a fee increase, but rather a connection to the down-turn in the economy. Cheng said the addition of a recruiter to the staff at the College of Business has led to an increase in the quality and academic preparedness of applicants.

The College of Business will offer new online classes this

summer, which will include 14 required core classes. Meredith Thomas, chief marketing officer for the college, said this is not a response to the drop in enrollment, but rather to provide flexibility to students who are enrolled in the program.

"We are making classes more accessible for students that are home for the summer or not in town," she said. "We are helping students get ahead or stay on track so that they can stay on course from anywhere."

The online courses will be offered to on-campus students and students who attend other schools as well, Thomas said. The classes offered are part of the business core curriculum, which is standard in most business programs, she said.

The offering of new online classes shows one way the College of Business is focusing on availability to students.

"The online programs have shown significant growth in both the Graduate MBA and (undergraduate) business degrees," Cheng said. "For example, the online UG business enrollment has increased three-fold in three years and is expected to grow even more for next fall."

The program began with 30 students and currently serves 90, with 60 new students expected next fall, Cheng said.

Dennis Cradit, dean of the College of Business, was unable to be reached for comment.

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- 605 W. Freeman 3
- 703 S. Illinois 101, 202
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- 703 N. Carico
- 908 N. Carico
- 311 W. Cherry 2
- 310 E. College 2, 3
- 201 W. College 3
- 310 W. College 1-4
- 401 W. College 5, 7
- 501 W. College 5, 6

- 503 W. College 4, 5
- 507 W. College 5
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- 710 W. College 4-6
- 303 W. Elm
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- 402 E. Hester 1-5, 7
- 408 E. Hester 1-3
- 703 W. High W
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- 300 W. Mill 1-4
- 405 E. Mill 1-7
- 409 E. Mill 2-7**
- 300 N. Oakland
- 608 N. Oakland G
- 507 S. Poplar 1, 4-6
- 1000 Schwartz
- 301 N. Springer 2, 3, 4
- 810 W. Sycamore
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- 409 W. College 1
- 501 W. College 2
- 509 W. College 2
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- 706 S. Forest
- 511 S. Hays
- 401 S. James
- 903 W. Linden
- 610 S. Logan
- 614 S. Logan
- 514 N. Oakland
- 602 N. Oakland
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- 519 S. Rawlings 5
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ERICKSON

CONTINUED FROM 8

“He works just as hard as any of the other guys on the golf team, if not harder,” Miller said. “He works as a leader too. He organizes the team, sends out all of the text messages and is our team captain.”

Miller said Erickson is a calm and collective player, even when he knows he didn't perform to the best of his ability. Miller said every player encourages one another to perform at their highest level during competition, but Erickson is the one who can be counted on to support the team on all levels.

“We are all very talented on our team, but Jake's got the mental part of the game figured out a little bit better than everybody else right now,” Miller said. “As long as (Erickson) continues to do that and

everybody else strives to get to his, then we should be even better as a team.”

Head coach Leroy Newton said Erickson has improved his game in both practice and during matches. He said Erickson has the determination to work harder each day, which can be seen when Erickson competes.

“Jake is very outgoing, as well as all of the other kids on the team,” Newton said. “The kids try different things and suggest different things to each other, and Jake is one to do just that.”

Newton said he believes Erickson will continue to combat his weaknesses and become a better player because he acknowledges his own strength.

*Brandon Willingham can be reached at
 bwillingham@dailyegyptian.com
 or 536-3311 ext. 282.*



Pat Sutphin | DAILY EGYPTIAN

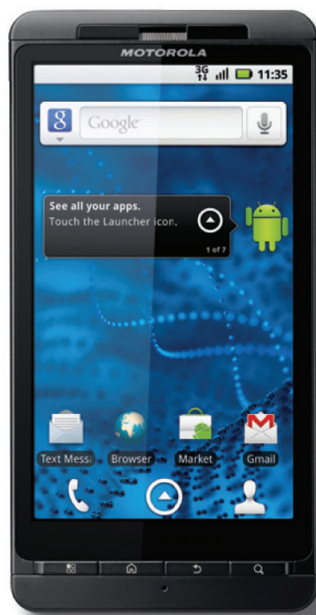
Sophomore infielder Jayna Spivey attempts to field a ground ball during Saturday's game against Creighton University at the Charlotte West Stadium. The Salukis will host Illinois State University Saturday and Sunday. For more on softball, visit www.dailyegyptian.com

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preparing to put on a play



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Lester Avila, 12, of Carbondale, has his beard touched up Wednesday during practice for the school's third annual play at the Dayemi Homeschool Collective. The school's performance, "Layla and Majun" begins at 7 p.m. today, and the final performance will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Dayeme Homeschool Collective. Proceeds from ticket sales will go into a scholarship fund that helps families send their children to the Dayemi Homeschool Collective, said Anita Brown, director of the play and a teacher at the Collective.

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Players react to Hinson's hire

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

Although waiting for a new coach to be hired was a challenge, freshman forward Treg Setty said he pulled together with his teammates and got through all of the speculation and questions about their own futures as Salukis.

"I've played basketball my whole life. I've never not had a coach," Setty said. "This was the first time I just didn't have anyone to answer to."

The players were informed Barry Hinson would be the new Saluki men's basketball coach in a meeting Wednesday shortly before the 3:30 p.m. press conference, and their reaction was overwhelmingly positive.

"Coming from what we had to (Hinson), it's something new and everybody likes it," said freshman forward Dantiel Daniels. "I'm excited about it, and I hope

everyone else is, too."

Daniels said there were immediate differences between Hinson and former coach Chris Lowery, who was fired March 2.

"(Hinson is) a great communicator, and I think coach Lowery, he lacked some areas in that," Daniels said. "You can read (Hinson) just how he is. If he's angry, you're going to know he's angry ... Sometimes with coach Lowery, you didn't know if he was happy, sad or anything."

Athletic Director Mario Moccia said Hinson's strength in communication was one of the top reasons why the athletic department hired him, along with his ability to connect with the community, his track record of winning on the court and his focus on academics.

Hinson said he even reached out to former players Mamadou Seck and Justin Bocot to make sure they were still focused on

leaving SIU with a degree. Seck said he liked Hinson, who has a strong background in the Missouri Valley Conference after coaching at Missouri State from 1999 to 2008.

Freshman forward Harry Whitt said Hinson plans to push them in the weight room as well as the classroom.

"He said he wanted us to be so sore that we can't lift our hand to shake somebody's hand," Whitt said. "I think he's exactly what we need."

Hinson said he plans to run the same kind of offensive sets that Kansas runs, which Whitt said might take a little while to get used to.

"We'll have plenty of time to adjust to him, and not too many kids have been in (Lowery's) system for too long," Whitt said. "I think it's going to be hard for the first month, but we'll see. I think he'll get us straight, but I'm pretty sure we're going to be running a lot."

After Lowery was let go March 2, several players said they wanted

to wait and see who the new coach was before they made a decision about staying with the program.

"There may be a few people (who) leave, but that's just what happens," Setty said. "I promise that the corps, and the freshman, we'll be here. We came here for a reason, and we're not going to leave for something small."

Setty said he had to sit down with his family before deciding on his future, but he'll definitely be back with the Salukis next season. The only player who said anything to the contrary was Daniels, but he said his comeback was probable.

Another Saluki who might return is Tony Young, former Saluki guard and current director of basketball operation at Saint Louis. Hinson said he hasn't put any thought into how his coaching staff will look, but he said Young contacted him Tuesday through email.

"(Young) said 'I don't know if you remember me,' and I said, 'Yeah, you were a pain in my butt,'

Hinson said.

Young played against Hinson's Missouri State teams with SIU from 2003 to 2007.

"Everytime we played Missouri State, I knew it was going to be a battle. Bottom line, it was going to be a fight," Young said. "Matter of fact, there were a couple fights that I can remember. But coach Hinson's an amazing coach."

Saint Louis coach Rick Majerus said during an appearance on a St. Louis radio show that Young would make a great coach at SIU, but Young said it was just jokes and speculation between him and Majerus.

"I'm at Saint Louis right now, but everybody knows how I feel about (SIU)," Young said. "If I did have an opportunity (to be an assistant for Hinson), it'd be great. I'd love it ... I would love to be here."

Joe Ragusa can be reached at jragusa@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269

Golfer captures consecutive wins, earns MVC honors



Isaac Smith | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Junior Jake Erickson gathers golf balls Wednesday during practice on the putting green at Hickory Ridge Golf Course in Carbondale. Erickson received MVC Golfer of the Week on March 22 and is the second golfer in SIU history to win two consecutive tournaments in the same year.

BRANDON WILLINGHAM
Daily Egyptian

Foot surgery may have caused junior golfer Jake Erickson to sit out of golf for 10 weeks, but the time off hasn't seemed to affect his ability to win as a member of the SIU men's golf team.

"At the beginning, I was a little rusty, but then I started playing really well. It was pretty exciting," Erickson said.

Erickson broke his right foot while playing basketball at the Recreation Center during winter break. He was released by his doctor Feb. 14 to play and returned to the team with an elevated performance on the golf course. He was recognized March 20 as the second Saluki in SIU history, behind alumnus Brian Norman, to win two consecutive golf tournaments in the same year and received Missouri Valley Conference Golfer of the Week honors.

Erickson said all the recognition he has received couldn't have been possible without the Saluki Athletics training staff, especially Assistant Athletic Trainer Kristin Trotter and his teammates overall support.

"I wanted to thank the whole training staff for rehabbing me and getting me back in time," Erickson said. "I wouldn't be able to play if it wasn't for them. I probably would've missed the first two tournaments."

Even when Erickson doubted his ability to play during the 2012 season, his teammates said they relied on Erickson's positive attitude and leadership skills as motivation.

Junior golfer Jeffrey Miller said Erickson deserves every honor he has received because of his strong display of team leadership and overall commitment.

Please see ERICKSON | 4

Gilley turns it up a notch for her final season



Sarah Gardner | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Senior golfer Margaret Gilley smiles after completing a hole Monday during the Saluki Invitational at Hickory Ridge Golf Course in Carbondale. Gilley tied with two teammates for fifth place with a two-round total of 154. So far this season Gilley has claimed two individual tournament titles and has been selected as the Missouri Valley Conference Golfer of the Week twice.

CALEB MOTSINGER
Daily Egyptian

As spring storm clouds encircled the Hickory Ridge Golf Course, Meg Gilley stood on the practice green calmly sinking putt after putt as she closed up an evening of practice that started nearly four hours earlier.

The SIU women's golf team ran away with their fourth win of the 2011-12 season Sunday and Monday at the Saluki Invitational. Gilley, a senior studying sports management from Flossmoor, came up big for the Salukis this year by winning two individual meets and being named Missouri Valley Conference Golfer of the Week twice during her senior season.

With a roster full of talent from players such as current MVC Golfer of the Week sophomore Cassie Rushing, and senior

leadership like Gilley's, the women's golf team has racked up some impressive wins this year under its new coaching staff.

Though this is coach Alexis Mihelich's first year at the forefront of the women's golf team, a sense of chemistry is visible between Mihelich and her golfers, said Gilley and her cousin Ryann Gilley, a freshman from Flossmoor studying pre-dentistry.

"What's unique about Meg and Ryann is that I knew them four or five years ago before I started here," Mihelich said. "When I was a teaching pro, before I got into college coaching, I worked at a golf academy. I first met Meg and Ryann when they came to the clinics we hosted for high school golfers."

For more on Gilley, please visit www.dailyegyptian.com